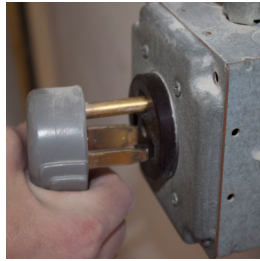


Replacing a brick in a Skutt Kiln

The best time to change a brick is when you are changing an element since elements become brittle after being fired. You will need to pull the element out of the channel to change the brick which risks breaking it.

If you are changing a terminal brick you will need a new element since the pigtails have to be cut to remove the brick.

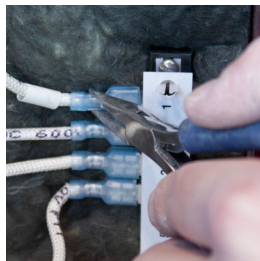
Even you you are not planning to change the element it never hurts to have a spare on hand just in case you break one accidentally.



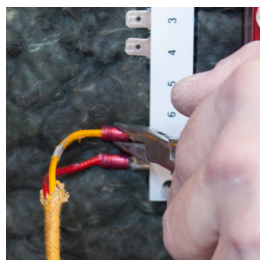
1. Unplug the kiln! If your kiln is hard wired (can't be unplugged) turn off the breaker or the disconnect.



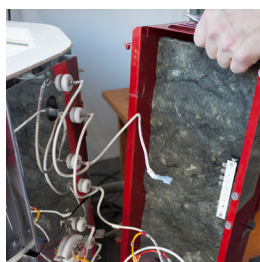
2. Remove the screws from the left side of the box. Skutt kilns have a hinged box which is held closed by 3-6 philips screws depending on the model.



3. Use a pair of needle nose pliers to pull the blue tabs off the terminal strips. Do NOT pull by the wires.



4. Use a pair of needle nose pliers to pull the thermocouple wires off the terminal strip. Do NOT pull by the wires.



5. Lift the control box up and off. Set it to the side.



6. Start the process of removing the lid. Pull the cotter pin out of the lid brace pad.



7. Lift the lid slightly and pull the lid brace off the anchor pad. Remove it from the kiln and set it aside.



8. Open the lid and remove the cotter pin and bar closest to the top of the kiln to de-tension the Lid Lifter springs.



9. Close the lid and remove the cotter pin that secures the lid pivot bar.



10. Pull the lid pivot bar out while supporting the springs. Note the way the torsion springs are oriented before removing them so you can replace them.



11. Carefully lift the now free lid off and set it to the side. This is MUCH easier with two people.



12. Start removing the hardware. You will need to remove all of the external hardware so the band can be loosened and the broken brick(s) removed.

Replacing a brick in a Skutt Kiln



13. Remove the lid hinge leaves, lid brace catch, lid prop, handles and buckels. Remove the two screws that hold the heat shield around the elements but leave the shield in place unless you are also changing the elements. The heat shield will not come off unless you cut the element pigtails.



14. Remove the straight pins that hold the elements in place. Remove the pins in the brick on either side of the one being changed.



15. Using pliers carefully remove the element from the brick being changed. Elements are very brittle after being fired so treat it gently!



16. Loosen the worm drive screws on the back of the kiln. Loosen them 3-4 turns at a time each until the band is loose enough to remove the brick.



17. Lift up on the broken brick to remove it. It helps to push the brick backwards as you lift. If it doesn't slide out keep loosening the band.



18. Vacuum out the space left by the missing brick. Debris will keep the new brick from fitting correctly.



19. Get the new brick ready. Skutt bricks have an up and a down. Orient the bricks with the deeper channel down to hold the element.



20. Carefully push the new brick into place. You may need three hands to separate the bricks and make enough space for the new brick.



21. Hold the worm drive body with a pair of pliers and tighten the screws evenly top to bottom. Make several passes and make sure the band is very tight.



22. Wrap a piece of medium coarse sandpaper around a 5" wide board that is at least as long as the kiln is wide. Gently sand the new brick until it is flush with the old brick. The goal is to make the new brick as flat as possible. Sand slowly and with even pressure.



23. Vacuum the dust before carefully replacing the element and pins. Reinstall the hardware. If the screws are corroded replace them with new ones.

After all the hardware and lid have been re-installed, put the control box back onto its hinges and reconnect the feeder wires and thermocouple wires to the terminal strip.

Congratulations! You changed a brick.